What is claimed is:

1.   A picture layout processing apparatus which conducts layout processing for

plural pictures; comprising:

5   an attractive region calculation means which calculates an attractive region in a

second picture which is overlapped and is behind a first picture; and

        a layout processing means which conducts layout processing so that the

attractive region in said second picture is not overlapped by and hidden by said first

picture.

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2.   A picture layout processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

        a template memory means which stores a group of templates which defines

layouts for plural pictures; and

        a template selection means which selects said template in said template memory

15   means:

        said layout processing means conducts layout processing for plural pictures

based on said selected template, so that the attractive region of each pictures is not

hidden.

20   3.   A picture layout processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

        a means which selects another template in the case in which a layout of said

plural pictures cannot be decided based on said selected template.

4.   A picture layout processing method for conducting layout processing of plural

25   pictures, comprising the steps of:

calculating an attractive region calculation which calculates an attractive region in a second picture overlapped and behind a first picture; and

a layout processing step which conducts layout processing so that the attractive region in said second picture is not hidden by said first picture.

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5.　　A program for making a computer in a picture layout processing apparatus which conducts layout processing of plural pictures, to execute a process comprising the steps of:

calculating an attractive region calculation which calculates an attractive region

10　in a second picture overlapped and behind a first picture; and

a layout processing step which conducts layout processing so that the attractive region in said second picture is not hidden by said first picture.